IN THE CLAIMS:

The following changes have been made to the claims:

1. (original) An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from:

(a) nucleic acid molecules comprising a nucleotide sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO: 2;

(b) nucleic acid molecules comprising a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing, under stringent hybridization conditions, to a nucleotide sequence complementary the polypeptide coding region of a nucleic acid molecule as defined in (a) and which codes for a biologically active mammalian IPAS polypeptide or a functionally equivalent modified form thereof; and

(c) nucleic acid molecules comprising a nucleic acid sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) or (b) and which codes for a biologically active mammalian IPAS polypeptide or a functionally equivalent modified form thereof.

2. An isolated mammalian IPAS polypeptide encoded by ~~the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1~~

(a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO: 2;

(b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is capable of hybridizing, under stringent hybridization conditions, with a nucleotide sequence complementary to the polypeptide-coding region of a nucleic acid molecule as defined in (a), and which codes for a biologically active mammalian IPAS polypeptide or a functionally equivalent modified form thereof; and

(c) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) or (b) and which codes for a biologically active mammalian IPAS polypeptide or a functionally equivalent modified form thereof.

3. (original) The isolated mammalian IPAS polypeptide according to claim 2 having an amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO: 3 in the Sequence Listing

4. (original) A vector comprising the nucleic acid sequence as defined in claim 1.

5. (original) A replicable expression vector, which carries and is capable of mediating the expression of a nucleic acid sequence as defined in claim 1.

6. (previously amended) A cultured host cell harboring a vector according to claim 4.

7. (original) A process for production of a mammalian IPAS polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell according to claim 6 under conditions whereby said polypeptide is produced, and recovering said polypeptide.

8. (original) A method for identifying an agent useful for activating the expression of a mammalian IPAS nucleic acid molecule, said method comprising the steps

(i) contacting a candidate agent with a mammalian IPAS nucleotide acid molecule according to claim 1; and

(ii) determining whether said candidate agent activates the expression of the said mammalian IPAS nucleic acid molecule.

9. (original) A method for identifying an agent useful for the inhibition of angiogenesis and/or tumor growth, said method comprising the steps

(i) contacting a candidate agent with a mammalian IPAS nucleotide acid molecule according to claim 1; and

(ii) determining whether said candidate agent activates the expression of the mammalian IPAS nucleotide sequence, such activation being indicative for an agent useful for the inhibition of angiogenesis and/or tumor growth.

10. (previously amended) A method for identifying an agent useful for stimulating the biological activities of a mammalian IPAS polypeptide, said method comprising the steps

(i) contacting a candidate agent with the mammalian IPAS polypeptide according to claim 2; and

(ii) determining whether said candidate agent stimulates the biological activities of the said polypeptide.

11. (previously amended) A method for identifying an agent useful for the inhibition of angiogenesis and/or tumor growth, said method comprising the steps

(i) contacting a candidate agent with a mammalian IPAS polypeptide according to claim 2 or 3; and

(ii) determining whether said candidate agent stimulates the biological activities of the said polypeptide, such stimulation being indicative for an agent useful for the treatment of a medical condition related to angiogenesis and/or tumor growth.

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12. (cancelled)

13. (previously amended) A method for the treatment of angiogenic disease or tumor growth, comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of an agent identified by the method according to claim 8.

14. (previously amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein said angiogenic disease is related to ischemic cardiovascular lesions, stroke, or diabetic microvascular diseases.

15. (previously added) A method for the treatment of angiogenic disease or tumor growth, comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of an agent identified by the method according to claim 9.

16. (previously added) A method for the treatment of angiogenic disease or tumor growth, comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of an agent identified by the method according to claim 10.

17. (previously added) A method for the treatment of angiogenic disease or tumor growth, comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of an agent identified by the method according to claim 11.

18. (previously added) A cultured host cell harboring a vector according to claim 5.

19. (previously added) The use or method according to claim 15, wherein said angiogenic disease is related to ischemic cardiovascular lesions, stroke, or diabetic microvascular diseases.

20. (previously added) The use or method according to claim 16, wherein said angiogenic disease is related to ischemic cardiovascular lesions, stroke, or diabetic microvascular diseases.

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21. (previously added) The use or method according to claim 17, wherein said angiogenic disease is related to ischemic cardiovascular lesions, stroke, or diabetic microvascular diseases.

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